

# Delaware high school graduation rate up

Delaware's high school graduation rate hit a record high in 2017. The state's dropout rate also slightly increased.

[annual Delaware Department of Education reports](#), which will be presented to the State Board of Education tonight, show an overall graduation rate of 85.75 percent in 2017. The graduation rate for several student subgroups – African American, Asian, Hispanic, low-income, multiracial, white and students with disabilities – also are up from 2016. The rates for two other subgroups – American Indian and English learner – declined.

Meanwhile the dropout rate saw a slight increase – 700 of the 40,884 students enrolled in grades 9-12 dropped out for a rate of 1.7 percent, slightly up from the 2016 rate of 1.4 percent.

Across our state, teachers, counselors, school leaders and community partners are collaborating with families to support their students, particularly those who are at risk for leaving school or falling behind on credit accrual. Their collective work is the reason more of our students are graduating," Secretary of Education Susan Bunting said. "Still none of us is satisfied. We will continue to increase graduation rates and decrease the dropout rate because behind these numbers are real students who need diplomas to be ready to succeed in postsecondary education and/or careers."

## Graduation rate

with a regular high school diploma within four years.

While the annual *dropout rate* provides information about one

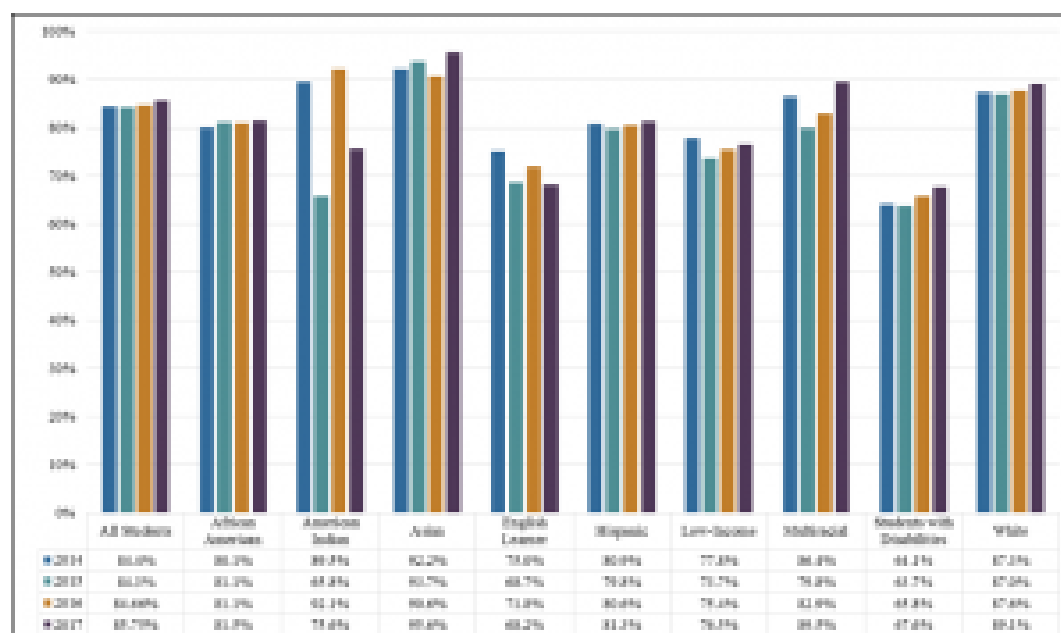
particular school year and all students enrolled in high school in that year, the *graduation rate* provides information about a particular group of students followed over the course of high school. It looks at all students who started high school at the 9th grade and how many graduated within four years. For this year's data, that means students who started 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2013/14 school year.

This year's rate is the highest since the state changed how it calculates graduation rates in 2010-11.

Last year, out of 10,203 students in the Class of 2017, 8,749 students graduated with a regular diploma, a rate of 85.75 percent. The state also looks at five- and six-year graduation rates. The graduation rate for the Class of 2015 was 84.4 percent at the end of four years, 85.6 percent at the end of five years and 85.7 percent at the end of six years.

Four-year graduation rate trend data, including subgroup and district/school information, is shown below.

### Four-Year Graduation Rates by District/Charter Class of 2015, 2016 and 2017



**Four-Year Graduation Rates by District/Charter  
Class of 2015, 2016 and 2017**

District/Charter	2015	2016	2017
Appoquinimink	94.2%	89.8%	94.6%
Brandywine	85.4%	89.7%	84.8%
Caesar Rodney	84.5%	84.8%	89.5%
Cape Henlopen	85.8%	88.9%	87.4%
Capital	83.4%	80.7%	84.4%
Christina	71.5%	69.4%	69.5%
Colonial	77.6%	70.2%	79.9%
Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security	76.9%	81.6%	80.7%
Delmar	88.4%	82.2%	91.1%
Indian River	84.9%	82.9%	84.3%
Lake Forest	82.2%	82.3%	85.2%
Laurel	80.5%	75.0%	82.5%
Millford	85.0%	88.7%	86.3%
New Castle County Vocational-Technical	94.1%	>95%	93.8%
Newark Charter	*	*	>95%
Polytech	>95%	>95%	>95%
Positive Outcomes	75.7%	91.3%	82.6%
Red Clay (includes Charter School of Wilmington and Delaware Military Academy)	89.3%	88.8%	90.6%
Seaford	79.8%	78.1%	76.4%
Smyrna	86.5%	88.6%	89.3%
Sussex Academy	*	*	92.5%
Sussex Technical	>95%	>95%	>95%
Woodbridge	81.6%	79.3%	79.7%

*Note: Districts/charters with 15 or fewer students are not included in the table above.*

*Graduation rates include all accountability schools within the District/Charter.*

*\* School was not eligible for graduation calculation.*



**Four-Year Graduation Rates by School**  
**Class of 2015, 2016 and 2017**

School	2015	2016	2017
A. I. duPont High	87.8%	83.7%	88.7%
Appoquinimink High	>90%	88.1%	94.6%
Brandywine High	83.8%	83.6%	78.9%
Caesar Rodney High	88.6%	86.3%	92.0%
Calhoun School of the Arts	>90%	>93%	>93%
Cape Henlopen High	87.6%	91.1%	88.3%
Charter School of Wilmington	>90%	>93%	>93%
Christiana High	87.3%	85.0%	88.3%
Concord High	83.8%	89.9%	87.0%
Conestoga School of Science	>90%	>93%	>93%
Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security	76.8%	81.6%	80.7%
Delaware Military Academy	>90%	>93%	>93%
Delmar Technical High	91.8%	94.6%	91.3%
Delmar High	88.4%	82.2%	91.1%
Dickinson High	73.8%	73.8%	73.6%
Dover High	87.4%	83.8%	88.3%
Elmwood High	73.8%	72.1%	78.7%
Hodgson Vocational Technical High	>90%	>93%	>93%
Howard High School of Technology	91.3%	93.8%	91.9%
Indian River High	88.8%	90.4%	90.3%
Lake Forest High	83.8%	83.3%	83.2%
Laurel Senior High	81.8%	73.0%	82.3%
McKean High	80.2%	84.2%	84.1%
Middletown High	90.3%	91.8%	94.7%
Milford High	84.8%	89.0%	88.3%
Mount Pleasant High	87.3%	84.4%	88.8%
Newark Charter	*	*	>93%
Newark High	73.8%	71.4%	65.0%
Polytech High	>90%	>93%	>93%
Positive Outcomes	73.3%	91.3%	83.6%
Seaford High	79.8%	78.1%	78.8%
Severna High	86.3%	83.6%	88.3%
St. George's Technical High	>90%	>93%	>93%
Sussex Academy	*	*	92.3%
Sussex Central High	87.3%	80.3%	81.6%
Sussex Technical High	>90%	>93%	>93%
Williams Penn High	80.4%	73.9%	82.7%
Woodbridge High	81.8%	79.3%	79.7%

*Note: Schools with 25 or fewer students are not included in the table above.*

*\* School was not eligible for graduation calculation.*



## Dropout rate

The annual dropout rate is calculated from grades 9 to 12, as prescribed by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), which provides data to the federal reporting system. The rate represents the total number of students (grades 9-12) who dropped out in a single year, divided by the total enrollment of the same school year. Data also is collected from private schools and families who homeschool their children. That information is only used to verify whether students transferred from public to private and home schools.

The annual report also looks at dropouts by student demographic. Statewide in the 2016-2017 school year, of the 700 who dropped out, 281 were African American, 258 were white/other and 161 were Hispanic. Looking at the total student enrollment by demographics for 2016-17, 2.7 percent of Hispanic, 2.2 percent of black and 1.2 percent of white/other students dropped out.

The majority of the 700 dropouts were male (418). The largest number were enrolled in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade (246). Students cited academic, personal and economic reasons for why they left school.

The state report provides analysis based on demographics and geographic breakdowns, including by county and districts/charter schools. For 2016-17, Kent had the lowest percentage of dropouts (1.5 percent). New Castle's rate was 1.6 percent while Sussex's rate was 2.2 percent.

Annual Dropout Rate by District/Charter

District/Charter	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate
Appoquinimink	0.8%	0.3%	0.6%
Brandywine	2.6%	1.8%	2.0%
Cesar Rodney	1.9%	0.9%	0.7%
Cape Henlopen	0.9%	0.6%	0.8%
Capital	2.6%	2.7%	2.6%
Christina	3.9%	2.4%	4.3%
Colonial	3.9%	3.1%	3.2%
DE Academy of Public Safety and Security	8.2%	1.8%	3.7%
Delaware Design Lab	-	0.0%	0.0%
Delmar	1.3%	1.3%	0.8%
Early College High School	10.1%	0.8%	1.0%
First State Military	-	2.3%	3.1%
Frederick	-	-	0.0%
Indian River	3.6%	2.3%	2.8%
Lake Forest	1.7%	0.8%	2.1%
Laurel	4.1%	4.6%	3.0%
Millford	2.2%	1.3%	3.1%
MOOT	-	-	0.0%
New Castle County Vocational-Technical	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
Newark Charter	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Odyssey	-	-	0.0%
Polytech	1.1%	0.3%	1.0%
Positive Outcomes	5.1%	3.1%	0.0%
Red Clay (includes Charter School of Wilmington and Delaware Military Academy)	1.7%	0.9%	1.1%
Seaford	2.8%	1.9%	4.2%
Smyrna	1.6%	1.3%	0.9%
Sussex Academy	4.4%	0.3%	0.7%
Sussex Technical	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%
Woodbridge	2.1%	3.3%	3.2%

note: Special Schools and I/Os are included in district dropout summary statistics.

“-” denotes schools where 3 prior dropout rates could not be calculated.





Annual Dropout Rate by School

High Schools	2014- 2015 Dropout Rate	2013- 2014 Dropout Rate	2016- 2017 Dropout Rate
A. I. duPont High	1.5%	0.9%	0.8%
Appoquinimink High	0.8%	0.4%	0.5%
Brandywine High	2.9%	2.2%	3.1%
Brennen School	-	-	0.0%
Cesar Rodney High	1.8%	0.9%	0.7%
Callaway School of the Arts	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cape Henlopen High	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Carver Education Center	-	-	2.3%
Charter School of Wilmington	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%
Christiana High	5.7%	1.4%	6.2%
Concord High	1.8%	2.6%	2.0%
Conrad School of Science	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security	8.3%	1.0%	3.7%
Delaware Design Lab	-	0.0%	0.0%
Delaware Military Academy	0.6%	0.2%	0.0%
Delaware School for the Deaf	-	-	0.0%
Delcastle Technical High	0.2%	0.2%	0.7%
Delmar High	1.3%	1.1%	0.8%
Dickinson High	5.7%	3.5%	5.9%
Douglass School	-	-	21.3%
Dover High	2.1%	1.5%	2.3%
Early College High at DSU	10.1%	0.0%	1.0%
Ennis (Howard T.)	-	-	0.0%
First State Military	-	-	3.1%
First State School	-	-	0.0%
Freire Charter	-	-	0.0%
Glasgow High	2.6%	2.4%	3.4%
Hodgson Vocational Technical High	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Howard High School of Technology	1.2%	0.5%	0.6%



Indian River High	0.7%	0.7%	1.6%
John Charlton School	-	-	0.0%
Kent County Community	-	-	0.0%
Kent County Secondary	-	-	12.5%
Lake Forest High	1.7%	0.8%	2.1%
Laurel High	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%
Leach School	-	-	4.8%
McKean High	3.0%	1.3%	2.1%
Meadowood Program	-	-	0.0%
Middletown High	0.9%	0.2%	0.7%
Milford High	2.2%	1.1%	3.1%
MOT Charter School	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Mount Pleasant High	3.1%	0.7%	1.2%
Newark Charter	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Newark High	3.0%	1.2%	2.1%
Odyssey Charter	-	-	0.0%
Polytech High	1.1%	0.1%	1.0%
Positive Outcomes	5.1%	3.1%	0.0%
Pyle (Sarah) Academy			13.3%
Saaford High	2.8%	1.9%	4.2%
Smyrna High	1.6%	1.1%	0.9%
St. Georges Technical High	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Sussex Academy	4.4%	0.5%	0.7%
Sussex Central High	4.9%	3.3%	3.7%
Sussex Consortium	-	-	0.0%
Sussex Technical High	0.5%	0.1%	0.6%
Wallace Wallin School	-	-	10.4%
William Penn High	2.7%	2.5%	2.8%
Woodbridge High	2.1%	3.5%	3.2%

*Note: Special Schools and ICDs are excluded in district dropout summary statistics*

*"-" denotes schools who's prior dropout rates could not be calculated*



The report also looks at those students who live in the 19801 and 19802 zip codes of Wilmington. Of the 700 dropouts, 77 lived in those zip codes.

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